critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
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This Week

Mrs. Warren's Profession-Davenport 138 E27 6/6... Frances Adler produces and stars in Shaw comedy directed by Pearl Pearson.

Next Week

Lo and Behold-Coliseum 6/11... Shangri-La- Winter Garden 6/13 ...New Faces-Barrymore 6/14... By Hex-Tempo 6/18.

Cole Porter Night

NY Lewisohn Stadium concerts have added a Cole Porter Night-July 21 with Dorothy Sarnoff, Martha Wright, Conrad Thibault. George Gershwin night will be July 9, Rodgers & Hammerstein July 28.

Trend Spotting

Popular revulsion with the more seamy side of life portrayed on stage recently may be here already, notes Crosby, Herald Tribune. Success of My Fair Lady shows public is very much in the mood for romance.

Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

Carmen Jones- City Center 5/31. 7 rave reviews filed by NY daily critics for final production of NYC Light Opera Company season. A first-rate show, summed up Atkinson, Times. Though Times man noted that cingers not up to Met. standards, they do make show enjoyable. Muriel Smith, appearing in her original role, is better than ever, adds Kerr, Herald Tribune, who thought show was best the City Center has yet presented. Chapman, News, began to think that all musicals should be sung by Negroes, the current cast is so splendid. Show is a modern masterpiece , raved McClain, Journal American. The most exciting production of its career, joins Hawkins, World Telegram & Sun. William Hammerstein, the director, shared plaudits with members of large cast. Show is slated to run for 3 weeks only.

Pictures in the Hallway, the reading of Sean O'Casey's autobiographical novel presented at YMHA, drew two more pro notices. Watts, Post, rated it as a worthy tribute to a writer of supreme talent. Reviewer admitted he had difficulty at times hearing two of the actresses, but otherwise thought cast for reading was fine. Geor, Variety, is sure someone is going to mount the readings of O'Casey commercially . If they'll trust the judgement that has informed the readings to date, he predicts, the results should be salutary.

Critical Selections

Michael Redgrave(Tiger at Gates), Julie Harris(Lark), Rex Harrison(My Fair Lady), Julie Andrews(My Fair Lady), Anthony Franciosa(Hatful of Rain), Diane Cilento(Tiger at Gates), Andy Griffith(No Time for Sergeants) and Susan Strasberg(Diary Anne Frank) picked as outstanding talents of year by NYC drama critics in annual Variety poll.

New Summer Theatre

Unity House Theatre, Forest Park, Pa. was dedicated last week. It is at the summer resort owned and operated by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and is one of the most modern legit theatres in the world. It cost $750,000 and seats 1066. Stage is 90 feet wide. House may be used for pre-Broadway tryouts.

NY will soon see Moscow's current comedy hit, a play entitled Klop which pokes fun at the lack of Soviet polish. Robert Dowling and Peter Brook have acquired the US stage and film rights, and are seeking to present it as soon as possible. For many years the play, written in 1930 by Vladimer Mayakovski, was banned in the Soviet.

Plays

The Lark and The Great Sebastians closed... Ponder Heart may close June 23 ... June 9 final date for Waiting for Godot ... Lo and Behold will open June 11 at new arena stage built on 4th floor of NY Coliseum seating 800. Featuring Edith Adams it will be presented twice daily at 2 30 PM and 8 30 PM. It is designed to be presented at expositions and industry shows... The Pleasure of Honesty with Alfred Drake will open in NY in November... High Heels musical will contain 6 songs from Strip for Action.

Players

Lawrence Tibbett replace Ezio Pinza, Fanny, one week earlier due to Pinza's illness... Nancy Andrews will succeed Helen Traubel in Pipe Dream... Josef Marais and Miranda have signed for Too Late the Phalarope... Steven McQueen will make NY debut in leading role of Hatful of Rain July 2, replacing Ben Gazzara... Madalyn O'Shea, head of Sarah Lawrence drama department, died at age 54.

Other Broadways

My Fair Lady national company plans to open in Los Angeles in April 1957... Teahouse of August Moon was sell-out hit in Uraguay and next moves to Argentina ... Repertory program starts at Chicago Studebaker Oct 2 with Androcles and the Lion... Chicago Lyric Theatre up for sale ... The Rainmaker opened to hit notices in London.

Summer Playhouses

Charlton Heston will tour in Detective Story, open ing July 16 in Newport, RI ... Show Boat tickets on sale at Holiday Theatre, 47 & Broadway. Guy Lombardo musical at Jones Beach opens June 21... Red Barn Theatre, Westboro, Mass, not allowed to present Ira Marion's new play Stairway to Nowhere on Sundays , though town authorities will permit it on weekdays.

Award File

National Collegiate Playwriting Contest first prize won by Edward Pomerantz of NY City College for his script The Garden... One act play division won by Carol Easton, UCLA, for Champagne Sec.

Vaudeville

Frankie Marlowe, George Prentice, Buddy Clayton head new Palace bill... Chopin Ballet features new Music Hall Show with Kathryn Lee and Swen Swenson in leading solo roles.

TV & Radio Notes

Victor Borge special "one man" CBS TV show will include a 43 piece orchestra-June 14... Musicals staged at St Louis Muncipal Stadium will be heard on CBS Radio Saturdays starting June 9 with Annie Get Your Gun... Old Vic will make its TV debut on NBC TV during the 1956-57 season, presenting one of the plays it will show in NY.

Theatre Book Notes

"Central and Flexible Staging" by Walden Boyle published by Univ of Calif Press... "Theatre in the East" by Fauhion Bowers published by Nelson & Sons.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

CHANCE IN LEGIT... There have been a thousand conjectures about why this has been such a good season in theatre, comments McClain, Journal American. Some say it's because of a bumper crop of new writers, otheers claim it's due to a flood of fresh loot. Critic thinks it is due soley to a little thing called chance: for some reason beyond our ken certain talents on the part of playwrights reached fruition and fell happily into the laps of certain producers who, with equal coincidence, had the yen and the cabbage to press on.

COLUMN TIPS... Tallulah Bankhead will get $8200 plus a percentage on her summer tour, hears Winchell... In the Pink angels got their checks back, the show is off, reports Kilgallen.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Some company managers think the recent slump in box-office ticket sales was due to the slump on the stock market, notes Watt, News... In Good King Charles' Golden Days recommended for Off Broadway production by Watts, Post... Theatre fans were advised that now is time to catch the hits by Coleman, Mirror.

CREATIVE ADAPTATIONS... Making an adaptation is not a lazy way of providing a play or musical, it is creative work, states Chapman, News. Ponder Heart, Diary of Anne Frank, My Fair Lady were given as prime examples. Critic is sure the flood of adaptations will continue next season. But he will have special gratitude and admiration for original work.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Some brave soul should produce the 400 page Ibsen play Emperor and Galliean, suggests a Times reader... The best of the college theatre groups should be presented for a season at the City Center, urges a C. D. subscriber.

DIRECTOR PRAISE... Louis Macmillan, director of The Man With the Golden Arm, was singled out by both Kerr, Herald Tribune, and Watts, Post, in follow-up stories as the main factor for the Cherry Lane's successful adaption of the Algren book. So many good performances at once suggest a hand that knows how to mine personal quality for its maximum effectiveness, Kerr pointed out.

PROS & CONS BY TMK

Summer is almost here and once again NY legit shows will close , mostly because of their antique cooling systems. Some year theatre owners will realize that an efficient, noiseless air-conditioning set -up is a must for year round theatre operations.

Off Broadway was almost sponsored this summer by a large food concern that planned to print 2-for-1 tickets to Off Broadway offerings on breakfast cereal boxes. The deal feel through and cowboy heroes will probably continue to be printed on the boxes instead. It would have been fun.

OFF BROADWAY

Three Times Three closed at Chanin after 15 performances... Turhan Bey heads Call of Duty opening June 19 at Provincetown... By Hex moved opening date forward to June 18 at Tempo, The Maids switches to week-end performances at 6 40 PM and 12 midnight at Tempo starting June 22.

Lori March succeeds Signe Hasso, and Gerald Hiken succeeds George Voskovec in Uncle Vanya. Saturday matinees of play at 4th St. Theatre cancelled for next two weeks to allow company to work on film version of classic... Mrs. Warren Profession postponed opening for week to June 6 ...3 one act plays by Chekhov will be presented at Contemporary Theatre, 15 Second Ave, starting June 28.

Paul Shyre will stage more readings based on Sean O'Casey's autobiographies. Pictures in the Hallway, recently presented at YMHA will be shown July 15 at White Barn Playhouse, Conn and July 18 at Mass. Institute of Tech.

A Doll's House , at Greenwich Mews, added 2 more mild pros to its critical file. Geor, Variety, thought adaption by Miriam Goldina was a considerable improvement over William Archer's scholarly translation, and that her staging has vivacity. Frank, Women's Wear, billed it as a worthwhile "remembrance" to Ibsen.

The Ivory Branch, which continues at Provincetown through June 17, was panned by Variety mugg as a deplorable play.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"The Importance of Being Earnest" published in a special boxed edition by Arents Tobacco Collection of NY Public Library at $20 a set was recommended by Down, Variety, as a unique and noteworthy theatrical publishing event. Limited edition of 500 is transcribed from Wilde's manuscripts, including first two acts which had been lost for 50 years.

TV THEATRE COMMENTS

Bloomer Girl presented on NBC TV Producers Showcase drew split notices from the TV critics. Gould, Times, and Crosby, Herald Tribune, okayed the Harold Arlen score, but thought book was dated. While Rose, Variety, approved both book and music, listing it as one of the better of the season's musicals.

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